

## Vice Admiral Benedict J. Semmes, Jr.

---

PRESIDENT, 17 AUGUST 1971 - 30 JUNE 1972

Oil on Canvas

Tony Sarro, 1972

Ac. 1972.13.01



Vice Admiral Benedict J. Semmes, Jr., came to the presidency of the College with thirteen years as a flag officer and many years in top-level Navy Department administration, having served as Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel and Commander, Second Fleet. He was no stranger to Newport, having served as commander of the Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Atlantic, 1963 - 1964, and during that time he lectured on more than one occasion at the Naval War College. During his tour as the College's thirty-sixth president, the College shifted its emphasis away from foreign and international affairs to management concepts in keeping with the prevailing notions in Washington.

Anthony "Tony" Sarro (1924 - 2006) was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and studied at the Rhode Island School of Design. He was a portraitist, illustrator, graphics designer, and calligrapher who worked in a variety of media, including tempera, oils, acrylic, watercolors, and pen and ink. He rose to hold the positions at the Naval War College of Director, Academic Services Division, and Head, Graphics Arts Department. Sarro was awarded the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal when he retired in January 1985. His artwork was widely exhibited throughout Southern New England.



The artist, Tony Sarro, unveiling the portrait of Semmes, at the Newport Officers' Club, 1972  
Photograph: Naval War College Museum